



The HPD News

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HPD Bagpipe Band is Source of Inspiration for Department

The piercing wail of bagpipes and the stern beat of drums are new sounds within the Houston Police Department that are the culmination of a vision by several employees.

The Houston Police Bagpipe Band envisions itself as a source of morale, inspiration and courage for the department. Hundreds of years ago, soldiers of Celtic clans would use the bagpipe much the same way as well as an instrument that would strike fear into the hearts of their enemies.

Sgt. Larry Lemoine began coordinating the effort to organize the HPD bagpipers about two years ago when eight officers began practicing on the pipes. "I just did it out of appreciation for the music," said Sgt. Lemoine.

The Houston Police Bagpipe Band now boasts 24 members following the graduation of 14 ci-



vilians this past April from the Houston Citizens' Police Academy. There is still room for more members and the current pipers and drummers within the band hope that other HPD employees will take pride in wearing the kilts. Lars Sloan of the Hamilton School of Piping puts the learning curve for beginner pipers at about 18 months. "It's never too late to learn," Sloan said.

The total cost of outfitting a piper with an instrument and

uniform is about \$1300, much of it coming out of the member's own pocket. Members practice every Tuesday night at the L.D. Morrison Police Training Academy (17000 Aldine-Westfield Road).

The Houston Police Bagpipe Band is comprised of both officers and civilians. If you are interested in joining this prestigious branch of the department, contact Sgt. Lemoine at 281-230-2440.

In Memoriam

The Houston Police Department lost two officers while on duty in May.

Officer Carlton J. Jones (Northeast) died in a single-vehicle traffic accident on Friday, May 18, 2001.

Officer Albert Vasquez (Westside) died from a gunshot wound he sustained while arresting narcotics suspects on Tuesday, May 21, 2001.

The Houston Police Department sends its deepest sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues.

Upcoming Blood Drive: Your Opportunity to Give

The Houston Police Department and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center will hold a blood drive on Wednesday, June 27, 2001 in the Wellness Center on the 22nd floor at HPD Headquarters (1200 Travis).

There is a particular need for type O-blood because it is the one blood type that can be transfused to anyone regardless of the recipient's blood type. Roll up your sleeves and give the gift of life!

Chief's Column

What is your foundation?

Unless a proper foundation is first laid, a house will collapse. Unless a proper foundation is first laid, a business will go bankrupt. Unless a proper foundation is first laid, a police department will become ineffective. All of HPD's crime-fighting efforts will collapse without the proper foundation of INTEGRITY.

Is that just a lofty sounding word to be used when it is politically expedient? Or is it the foundation of your police career? The

foundation must come first. The foundation of our General Orders is a ***Law Enforcement Code of Ethics*** and a system of **values** and **beliefs**. Have you read them? Have you internalized them? If the foundation of your career rests on the shifting sands of power, prestige, or money, you will become ineffective as a law enforcement officer. If instead you build on the solid foundation of integrity, your career will endure the inevitable storms of life, and you will make a difference in our city.

In your search for signifi-

cance, are you only here for a paycheck, or are you protecting the innocent, the weak, and the peaceful? Are you only writing reports, or are you championing liberty, equality, and justice? Do you only wear a badge, or do you wear a symbol of public faith? Are you only arresting people, or are you advancing and protecting the democratic process?

History will judge us.

What is your foundation?



HPD Welcomes Newest Honorary Police Officers

All HPD employees who are new parents may receive a certificate naming their child an honorary police officer. Certificates may be requested by forwarding a written request to Debbie Williams, Awards Coordinator, Administration Coordinator Command. Please provide the baby's full name, date of birth, the employee's name, job title, division and shift assigned. Children born on or after October 13, 1997 are eligible.

The following have received certificates since the announcement of the program in the April issue of The HPD News:

Javier R. Flores-Gaytan born March 16, 1999 to Deanna Garza (Homicide)
 Chelsea Lenor Ann Smith born November 11, 1999 to Defani S. Poche (Homicide)
 Christian Xavier Alanis born August 9, 2000 to Marisa Alanis (Civilian Employment)
 Ethan Henry Fitzgerald born March 3, 2001 to Officer William Fitzgerald (North)
 Nichole Egan-Wyer Jones born July 19, 1999 to Lt. James Jones (Southwest)
 Rorye Egan-Wyer Jones born December 21, 2000 to Lt. James Jones (Southwest)
 Brandon Daniel Connor born April 7, 1999 to Officer Timothy Connor (Southwest)
 Blake Ryan Connor born December 21, 2000 to Officer Timothy Connor (Southwest)
 James Troy Brady born February 15, 2001 to Officer Myron Brady (Southwest)
 Damien Alexander Duran born October 27, 2000 to Officer Don Duran (Southwest)
 Joshua Andrew Guerra born October 10, 1998 to Officer Steven Guerra (Robbery)
 Rae'ven J'nae Selders born May 27, 2000 to Officer Jesse Selders (Airport)
 Jacob Andrew Rich born November 20, 2000 to ID Officer Jennifer Rich (ID)
 Tiffany Danielle Purl born September 21, 2000 to Officer Cynthia Purl (Westside)
 Christopher Charles Torres born December 23, 1998 to Officer Jose Torres (Juvenile)
 Rhys Patrick Whitmore born October 22, 2001 to Officer Mark Whitmore (Training)
 Michael Ray Hammonds, Jr. born January 22, 2001 to PSO Carla Ansley (Central)
 Carlos Andres Meisel born October 4, 1999 to Officer Janet Meisel (Narcotics)
 Justin David McDaniel born December 28, 1999 to Officer Kevin McDaniel (Westside)
 Sean C. Booker born September 26, 1999 to Corey Booker (ECD)



Chief Bradford with Jonathan Cohen of Bellaire High School



Chief Bradford with Estella Gonzalez of Austin High School

Y-PAC Builds Trust Among Youth

One of the main goals of Chief Bradford's Youth-Police Advisory Council is to build a relationship of trust – through communication – between our youth and our police officers. Recent graduates of Y-PAC told the Chief that they and many of their friends were either scared or intimidated by police officers. Now that they have attended Y-PAC, many of the students have changed their perspectives.

Here are some samples of essays from a few of the students who won college scholarships from Home Depot. Jonathan Cohen of Bellaire High School wrote about "The Blue Squad": "I speak for most teens when I say that the blue uniforms frighten us, even if we are doing absolutely nothing wrong...The Youth-Police Advisory Council has really impacted my life and views of the police force. I no longer have a fear of officers and I have found a new respect for them."

Estella Gonzalez of Austin High School wrote: "I grew up in a neighborhood where police are feared and thought to be enemies. I had not even had a conversation with a police officer before I entered the Y-PAC. Through the Y-PAC, I have learned police are people who are reliable, honest and most of all caring...I plan on becoming the district representative in my neighborhood...I want everyone to have the same respect and high opinion I have toward police officers. Now, every time I see police officers I know I have a friend in them."

HPD Presents Police Week Awards

Each year during National Police Week, HPD recognizes police officers, civilian employees, citizens and organizations who have made significant contributions to the department. This year's recipients were: **CORPORATE AWARD** – Garden Ridge Pottery for providing a site to establish a storefront for the Northeast Division; **MEDIA AWARD** – The Forward Times Newspaper for its commitment to assisting HPD and supporting several public service endeavors; **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** – Officer Rodolfo Rodriguez for his professional conduct during the arrest of two serial robbery suspects; **CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR** – Ms. Lois Gibson for her skills as a forensic sketch artist who has provided invaluable assistance in solving numerous violent crimes; **OFFICER OF THE YEAR** – Officer Juan M. Aldape for his attention to duty during the apprehension of two robbery suspects and his intervention in a hostage situation; **OFFICER OF THE YEAR** – Officer Muzaffar H. Siddiqi for his duties as the department's Southeast Asian Liaison and his contributions to the Southeast Asian communities; **CIVILIAN SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR** – Telecommunicator Supervisor Susan D. Matthews for her outstanding performance as supervisor in the Emergency Communications Division; **SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR** – Sgt. C.J. Klausner for his leadership ability in the Truck Enforcement Unit and the SPEED Detail; **CIVILIAN MID-MANAGER OF THE YEAR** – Administration Manager Lake D. Jones for his professional conduct in the Fleet Management Division; **MID-MANAGER OF THE YEAR** – Lt. Richard M. Spencer for his professional expertise in addressing police activities in the downtown area; **CIVILIAN MANAGER OF THE YEAR** – Police Administrator James D. Evans III for designing and implementing the department's mediation and dispute resolution technique; **MANAGER OF THE YEAR** – Capt. Craig S. Goralski for his exemplary managerial skills and diligent efforts as Commander of the Northeast Police Station.

For All The News That's Fit To Collect: Just Call Him Doctor Archive

The sinking of the Titanic, the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy may be considered movie plots by some people, but for one HPD employee those events fueled a passion spanning nearly 25 years.

Dr. Thomas Johnson (Planning and Research) began collecting newspapers chronicling historic events in 1976 when it was announced that Jimmy Carter had been elected President. Today, his newspaper collection is more than 5,000 copies covering nearly 300 years of U.S. history.

Dr. Johnson said some of his inspiration to collect newspapers came from his father who began collecting them upon his return home from World War II.

"I had seen him put papers in a wooden trunk," said Dr. Johnson. "I went to the trunk and they were still wrapped up. I have every significant event since 1945."

Dr. Johnson finds rare newspapers in antique stores, at auctions, through a newspaper collector's organization and on the Internet.

Dr. Johnson discovered a gold mine when he met an elderly man who was moving from Beaumont who gave him a bound collection of the Austin American-Statesman from 1878 to 1940. The copies



Dr. Tom Johnson (Planning and Research) shows off two valuable pieces from his newspaper collection

were originally the property of the University of Texas and were going to be destroyed after the school transferred them to microfilm.

The oldest newspaper in his collection is from 1713. He also has newspapers printed during the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

The newspapers are wrapped in plastic and stored in boxes in a special room at his parents' home in Livingston, Texas.

"The newspapers have to stay out of the sunlight and they should not be folded," said Dr. Johnson. "They have to be laid out straight. After a few years, the fold can become harder and tear the newspaper apart."

Ironically, some of the older newspapers printed before the Civil War are easier

to preserve because they were made out of cotton.

Dr. Johnson's most valuable newspaper is the Chicago Daily Tribune with its classic "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline. While he won't say how much he paid for it, many copies of that paper now sell for over \$5,000! Dr. Johnson got his copy from the widow of a former Democratic boss in Chicago who said her husband kept a copy of it under his bed until his death.

Dr. Johnson has shown his newspapers at exhibits at local colleges and has donated some editions to the Houston Holocaust Museum and the Houston Police Museum. "I want to give my newspapers to organizations that will display them for posterity," said Dr. Johnson.